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EDUCATION LOTTERY SALES SOAR!

**-Powerball Jackpot Rolls to an Estimated \$133 Million-
-\$200,000 Winning Powerball Ticket Sold in Charlotte-**

RALEIGH-The North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) has achieved its highest week in sales since launch. Sales for the past week reached \$27.7 million, which is nearly \$10 million higher than the weekly average.

"We are ecstatic to see the growth in sales!" said Tom Shaheen, NCEL executive director. "The Legislature gave the NCEL more flexibility in determining prize payouts, and it's starting to show some results. Our ultimate goal is to raise more money for education," he added.

No one won the Powerball jackpot on Saturday, so the jackpot for the Wednesday, Feb. 27, drawing is worth an estimated \$133 million! One player matched all five white balls. The ticket is worth \$200,000. Another player matched four out of five white balls plus the Powerball. The ticket is worth \$10,000. Both tickets were sold in **Charlotte**. A total of 53,065 Powerball players won prizes in the drawing, ranging from \$200,000 down to \$3 for a total payout in prizes worth \$606,828.

Three players selected the correct five numbers for the Feb. 21 "Carolina Cash 5" drawing. The jackpot was \$113,784, so each player's ticket is worth \$37,928. Two of the tickets were sold in **Durham**, and one ticket was sold in **Hickory**.

The NCEL has paid out over \$7 million total in instant scratch-off ticket prizes since Thursday, Feb. 21. Also since Thursday, "Carolina Cash 5" players have won more than \$234,000 and "Carolina Pick 3" players have won more than \$664,000 in prizes.

Winners in the Feb. 23 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Unknown		\$200,000	Food Lion #2569 10120 Johnston Rd., Charlotte
Unknown		\$10,000	Petro Express #3979 9620 Rea Rd., Charlotte

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Winners in the Feb. 21 "Carolina Cash 5" drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Silas Greene	Durham	\$37,928	Family Fare #402 2502 Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham
Andrew Mickle	Durham	\$37,928	Wilco # 191 803 E. Geer St., Durham
Unknown		\$37,928	Times Turn Around #26 1110 Lenoir Rhyne Blvd., Hickory

Instant scratch-off ticket top tier prize winners:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Game Played</u>
Janicka Buchanan	Clarkton	\$75,000	"Red Hot Bingo"
Angela Washington	Henderson	\$21,000	"Firecracker Cash Explosion"
Rachel Huskey	Shelby	\$10,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Robert Strong	Hendersonville	\$7,777	"Emerald Green 7's"
Rebecca Blackmon	Leland	\$5,000	"Extreme Green"
George Bottoms	Battleboro	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Annette Hayes	Wilson	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Lonnie Huggins	Asheboro	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Evith Salinas	Raleigh	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Kirby Turner Jr.	Clayton	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Leland Wainwright	Greenville	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"

"Carolina Cash 5" Top Prize Winners Tally

<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$50,000 to \$856,998	105

Powerball Winners Tally

<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$1 Million - \$200,000	92
\$50,000 - \$10,000	539

(The Powerball numbers above are since May 31, 2006,
but do not include unclaimed prizes.)

100% of the North Carolina Education Lottery net proceeds are used for pre-kindergarten programs for at risk youth, reduction of class size in early grades, school construction and college scholarships for need-based individuals.